



# ZOOLOG

**PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA**



## **Rosy-billed Pochard**

**VOLUME 7, NO. 3**

**OCTOBER 1966**  
**Single copy 25¢**  
**Free to members of the Zoological Society of Manitoba**

## Acknowledgements

Inserts "Ducks at a Distance" are kindly provided through the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Manitoba Department of Conservation Education. Maps used throughout Zoolog were generously made available by the Department of Geography, University of Manitoba.

The article and pictures "Nature Trail" were submitted by the Conservation Education Section, Dept. of Mines and Natural Resources of the Province of Manitoba.

### Photographs:

Rosybilled Pochards — Dave Bonner

Tiger "Adam" — Paul Guyot

Demoiselle Cranes — Gerry Cairns

## ZOOLOG

Zoolog is published quarterly by the  
Zoological Society of Manitoba.

Editor — Dieter H. Schwanke

Address Letters to the Editor to Clandeboye, Man.

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa,  
and for payment of postage in cash.

# The Rosybilled Pochard

(*Netta peposaca*)

Peculiar to this duck ranging from central Chile through northern Argentina, Paraguay and southern Brazil to the Rio Negro Province of Argentina is its occasional cuckoo-like behaviour. It's not the sound it sometimes imitates, but the cuckoo's tendency to lay eggs in somebody else's nest. Beautiful Rosybilled Pochards are generally highly appreciated as ornamental waterfowl. During times of mating display, the Rosybilled Pochard's simple throwing back of the neck and skyward stretching of the head combines with the male's striking colours to enchant even the non-fancier of waterfowl.



The Rosybilled Pochards in the Assiniboine Park Zoo collection were donated in 1964 by the Airliner Motor Hotel, as mentioned on the honour roll (inside back cover).

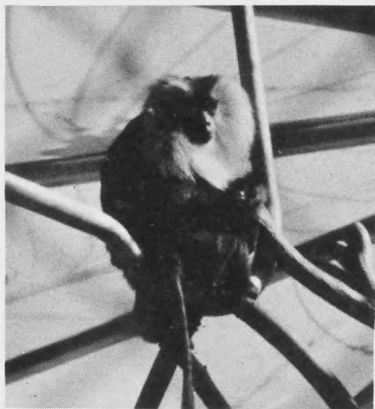
Obtained from Massachusetts in the eastern United States, the Rosybills in our collection reproduced and scored a first in western Canada.

Unfortunately Winnipeg is not free of vandalism and the Zoo's duck pond seems to be a major attraction for all hoods. In spite of heavy policing again and again damage may be seen. For this reason, all duck eggs are quickly removed from nests on the duck pond. They are then placed in incubators where they are kept at appropriate temperature, humidity; and the right amount of turning of eggs is taken care of at all times. This feminine task is performed splendidly at the Assiniboine Park Zoo by two young ladies, Miss Gladys Bowthorpe and Miss Vivien Sundberg.

Aside from the successful hatching of two Rosybills, the Assiniboine Park Zoo hatched — from Zoo bred stock — Egyptian Geese, Lesser Snow Geese, thirty-two wild ducklings, not counting over forty Muscovy Ducks, all of these in 1966. By the way, did you ever stop to realize that the children's zoo alone exhibited over 250 specimens this season?

**Main range  
of the Rosybill**

## **Monkey Babies**



**Lion-tailed Monkey**

Although late in Autumn, animals are still being born at Assiniboine Park Zoo. Two babies are reported from the Gibbon house. A Bear Macaque (*Macaca speciosa melli*), and a Lion-tailed Monkey (*Macaca silenus*), ensuring the perpetuation of our particularly fine group of these long bearded, silken black-haired monkeys.

## **Horned Pheasants**

Zoolog's last issue promised an answer to: What's a Tragopan. Still, due to the fact that the Tragopan cage is not finished yet, to present a life history of Tragopans now seems like jumping the gun. If any birds are going to occupy the area before winter, they will be Copper Pheasants more likely than Tragopans. Live trees and shrubs are yet to be planted in the enclosures and root firmly before the introduction of the extremely scarce Tragopans, which are also called Horned Pheasants.

The fleshy "horns", brilliantly coloured wattles which are displayed in mating season and the short crests of the cocks, easily distinguish the five species of Tragopans from other pheasants. The females are subdued in colour. Tragopans range from the east to the west along the southern slopes of the Himalayan Range and its western extensions.

## **A Trio of Wildcats**

Part of the expected development in the acquisition of Wildcats has taken place. A female Wildcat, zoo-born in the collection of the Calgary Zoological Society, has been received. Although an extremely beautiful specimen, she is very scared and, a natural reaction, she is quite prone to take a nip or two at whoever is handy. Until this cat has somewhat settled, she will not be publicly displayed.

An import permit has been granted by federal authorities for 1,1 European Wildcats (*Felis silvestris*). This permit has been duly mailed to Tierpark Berlin (Zoo Park Berlin) and the animals are expected to arrive anytime. With this acquisition, the Assiniboine Park Zoo will have the desired trio of Wildcats.

## **Walking Down the Lane**

On a recent walk through the Zoo grounds, Dr. Voss, the Zoo Director, was stopped by a couple visiting the Zoo and congratulated on the marvelous change that has transformed the Zoo into a wonderland for animals and people. I was happy to witness this pleasant chat.

# Nature Trail



Now, this is ....

Keen interest in outdoor education by a small committee of Winnipeg school teachers has resulted in the formation of the first nature trail for use by city school children.

The nature trail is on Canada Cement Company property in Fort Whyte and is built around the theme of plant succession and changes in nature. Students will be exposed to a variety of plant life in different stages of succession. They will be able to see how drainage affects growth, how shade prevents growth, how pioneer plants edge into unused gravel roads and how water and land fight a continual battle to see which will take over.

The trail was set up by the Conservation Education Section of Manitoba's Department of Mines and Natural Resources as a contribution to this pioneering step in outdoor

education in Winnipeg. An in-service training session was held on September 24 when 50 teachers attended lectures and toured the trail in preparation for taking their classes around it.

Part of the pre-trail program involved viewing a set of coloured slides which showed what was on the trail. Teachers will be able to borrow these slides from the Winnipeg School Division's Science Center on William Avenue to show to their own classes before taking them over the trail.

The idea behind the nature trail project is to teach natural history outdoors where children can actually feel, touch, smell and observe natural things. The ecological approach has been adopted in an effort to get children to understand that all living things are inter-dependent on one another, including mankind itself.



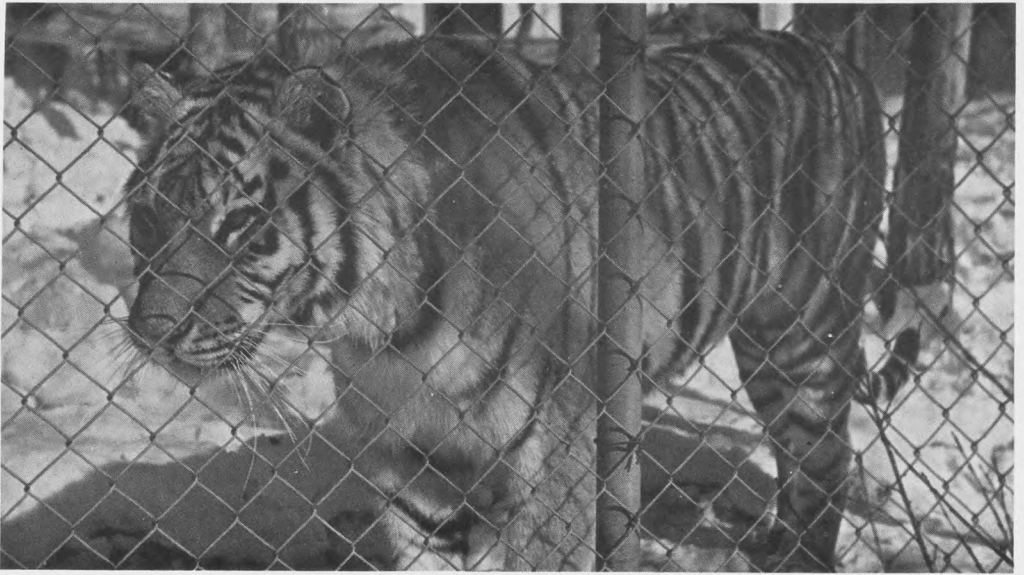
**Tiger! Tiger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry? -William Blake**



And so the time came on September 15th in the Assiniboine Park Zoo when the three Siberian Tiger cubs were taken from their mother, Eve. At the age of eight weeks, all felines in a Zoo should get a vaccination against cat distemper. No one would expect a Tiger mother to sit idly by while her babies are being subjected to such treatment, in fact, the separation itself is quite often risky business. However, all went well and in the haste of the careful proceedings, the three were identified as males.

All three babies are quite well, and one of them already displays the ferocious temperament one associates with this animal. Eve, the mother, also seems quite well, perhaps her milk supply was getting low already and she doesn't mind a bit of peace and quietness.

For reasons as yet unknown, recent zoo history seems to establish that male Siberian Tigers are somewhat more difficult to keep in good shape than females. In fact, our Tiger father, Adam, was almost condemned to die



**Adam**

The time comes in every family, human or animal, when the children separate from their parents. Human mothers sometimes make the mistake of trying to avoid this inevitable step, animals normally have more sense and eventually remove themselves from their young; or forcibly eject them from their company.

two years ago because of his apparent poor health, a symptom of which was his difficulty in shedding hair. However, a reprieve was obtained for him and under the care of the veterinarian, Dr. Ross Major, Adam improved miraculously – also obviously.

With various trickeries Adam was induced to become amorously interested in his half sister, Eve. This was Eve's first litter, and she did a splendid job of raising it. Serpent, the other female Siberian Tiger, is still waiting for this experience.

The three baby Tigers will eventually be displayed in the cage now occupied by Bobcats. To make this possible, the Bobcats' stool had to be examined for parasites, the area has to be totally disinfected and left empty for a while, and some insulating

has to be done at the building. However, we hope to see the Tigers in their new surroundings soon enough for them to receive some of the warm afternoon sun.

Successful raising of Siberian Tigers at Assiniboine Park Zoo is another first in Canada. Only two or three other races of Tigers are more rare than the Siberian Tigers.

Father and mother, doing well, babies taken care of, all seems to be well. Perhaps it isn't. The problems now are: Will Eve get used to the bigger area again? Will Eve get along with Adam? How will Serpent get along with Eve after the period of separation? Whatever happens, efforts will be made to keep the breeding pair together and hopefully wait for another litter of these rare beauties.

# *Demoiselle Crane*

(*Anthropoides virgo*)

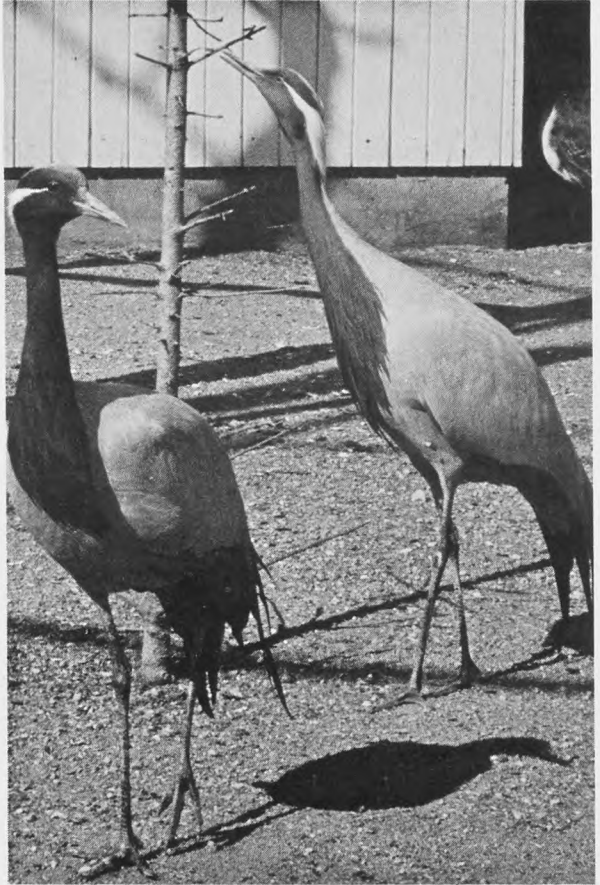
Walking like a maiden, and hence given the short form of the French 'Mademoiselle', this Crane is the smallest of its family, but may also be considered to be one of the most appealing. The Demoiselle Crane's chief domain stretches from southern Europe through Asia to northern China.

The Cranes in our collection were obtained in exchange from Tierpark Berlin-Friedrichsfelde and originated from southern Russia, an area around the Caspian Sea.

The new arrivals when put in a large deer paddock presented a sad picture indeed, huddled against the farthest corner of their enclosure. The coming of winter posed a further problem as these birds at least are accustomed to open water all year round. The only area in the Assiniboine Park Zoo available with these amenities was the central circular enclosure of the pheasantry housing peafowl.

Not without trepidation, the Demoiselle Cranes were introduced to the peafowl.

Instead of increasing nervousness and fear of man on account of the more than half circle walkway around this new enclosure, the birds became brave, almost tame. The group quickly learned to regard the fence as a protection from people and is apparently very happy. The Cranes also established immediate rapport with the flock of peafowl and after three years started breeding, the ultimate sign of an animal's well being. Eggs were hatched successfully in 1964, 1965 and 1966. An astounding record of breeding and raising Cranes in captivity.



If you look closely at the picture of Demoiselle Cranes, and if you are blessed with a little imagination, you will notice that the shadow somewhat resembles the general form and shape of the American Coot (*Fulica americana*). The Coot is a Rail, and Rails are related to Cranes.

Which brings us to Coots and the fact that there are some in the Zoo's collection. In 1964, one of our Coots raised a brood of young on the duck pond. However, as Coots are not exactly genial companions to Ducks in the crowded basement winter quarters, none of the young were pinioned and they migrated in October.



# Golden-Yellow Autumn Leaves

This is the title of a book by Reinhold Eben-Ebenau that has unfolded the beauties of Canada's outdoors for all the world to know.

Cottagers taking their last fling in the outdoors often come home with reports of Bears sighted. Hunters yarns notwithstanding, a black bear seldom weighs more than four hundred pounds. Even more infrequently do Bears lurk behind trees to pounce on the unwary wanderer. In fact, Bears are intensely shy. Consider yourself lucky if you see a Bear quietly eating.

Although a carnivorous animal, he avoids any over-exertion and happily feasts himself on anything near at hand. In fall, it's Berries:

Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Elderberries;  
Blueberries, Snowberries, if he can find them, Buffaloberries;  
and Acorns, Apples, Plums and Cherries.

Among the lesser known of these are the Buffaloberry and the Snowberry.

## **Buffalo Berry**

(*Shepherdia argentea*)

A thorny shrub from four to fifteen feet high, it has oblong leaves from one to two inches long, and brownish, unisexual flowers. The orange, round fruit, one quarter inch across, is very sour. Grows around sloughs and in coulees.

## **Canada Buffalo Berry**

(*Shepherdia canadensis*)

This species of Buffalo Berry is unarmed and shorter: from one to eight feet. The leaves are oval, one to one and a half inches long, flowers yellowish, and the quarter inch long round fruit is reddish or yellowish and tasteless.

## **Creeping Snowberry**

(*Chiogenes hispida*)

This shrub is a prostrate evergreen with short creeping stems and dark green, oval leaves a quarter to a



half inch long. It has small white flowers and white berries; abounds in cold, wet places.

## **Snowberry**

(*Symphoricarpos albus*)

From eighteen inches to five feet in height, this shrub has thin, oval leaves from three-quarters to two inches long, clusters of flowers, and white, waxy berries. It is only occasionally found in Manitoba, but the variety,

## **Few-Flowered Snowberry**

(*Symphoricarpos albus pauciflorus*) is more common. White waxy berries and small round or oval leaves are characteristic of the Few-flowered Snowberry, a low-growing, spreading shrub found in rocky and sandy woodlands.

## **Western Snowberry**

(*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)

One of the most common shrubs, it grows one to four feet high from creeping roots. This species has oval leaves one to three inches long, pink and white flowers, and plenty of white, waxy berries.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir: —

I would like to tell you that I have read a copy of your magazine *Zoolog* and found it very interesting. I visit the Assiniboine Park Zoo often and will now look forward to reading about it from time to time also.

I have a question to ask. Many zoos in other parts of the world have a large exhibit of snakes and turtles. I know that we don't have the same great variety of these animals in Manitoba that they have in the South. All the more reason, then, for a good comprehensive exhibit of reptiles. What are the plans for such an exhibit in the future?

Yours truly,  
Zoo Fan

Many people may look upon Reptiles, especially Snakes, as repulsive. According to zoo officials, this is part of their tremendous popularity, and may be compared to the attraction of horror shows.

Assiniboine Park Zoo exhibited Western Painted Turtles this summer in the children's zoo with great success, and due to lack of accommodation, released the animals early in August.

The fourth stage of development of Assiniboine Park Zoo envisions Reptiles, Amphibians, and even Fish.

## Promotions

Paul Morton, President of the Odeon-Morton Theatres, presented a lion cub, "Kenya", to the Zoo's collection. The official ceremony was held at the Garrick Theatre before an audience waiting to see the film "Born Free". This movie was filmed in Kenya, East Africa, where the cub's father was born. "Kenya" was officially received by Councillor Bernie Wolfe, Chairman of the Parks and Protection Committee. The scenery and shots of wild animals in the film "Born Free", the story of lioness "Elsa", are astounding.

An unusual promotion of Wiley Mercury Sales and Zoological Society has decorated the mall of Polo Park Shopping Centre in St. James recently. Al Wiley, President of Wiley Mercury Sales, donated two Cougar cubs and cage to Assiniboine Park Zoo. The railway strike posed some problems of transporting the cubs from British Columbia. However, Al Wiley kindly lent a truck, and two Zoo staffers picked up the Cougars. Zoo guides were on hand at the mall to solicit memberships to the Zoological Society and sell Zoo Guides and copies of *Zoolog*. Quite a number of citizens were attracted.

## In the Grass Marsh

Farmers hate them. Ornithologists and birdwatchers love them.

Every fall, hordes of Manitoba's largest birds, the Sandhill Cranes, invade farmers' grainfields near the Grass Marsh in the vicinity of the village of Plumas.

To see this spectacle and to observe the birds in their natural surroundings, a few Zoo employees ventured out to the area west of Lake Manitoba. Dr. Voss's excursion re-

sulted in one bird seen after he was stopped by a farmer, Mr. Kreutzer, whose first words were: "What are you doing here, don't you know you are in a reserve?" However, he was calmed when he noticed that the only equipment carried was a pair of binoculars.

Staffer Cor Janson who came to us from Rotterdam Zoo and his boarding companion Hartmut Jungius were more fortunate. They saw about fifty cranes.

# ASSINIBOINE PARK ZOO

OPERATED BY

THE METROPOLITAN CORPORATION OF GREATER WINNIPEG  
PARKS AND PROTECTION DIVISION

ANDREW CURRIE, DIVISION DIRECTOR

DR. GUNTER VOSS, ZOO DIRECTOR

## HONOUR ROLL

THESE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS  
ARE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

### **Manitoba Wildlife Branch**

Animal Donations, Native Animals, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966

### **Mrs. F. W. Alcock, Charleswood**

Animal Donation, Wallaby, 1961

### **Zoological Society of Manitoba**

Moated Pens and Shelter, for Carnivores, 1963

### **Royal Trust Company**

Animal Donation, Pandas, 1963

### **Carling Breweries Manitoba Ltd.**

Animal Donation, Lions, 1964

### **Bearing Supply & Service Ltd.**

Animal Donation, Gibbons, 1964

### **The Airliner Motor Hotel**

Animal Donation, Ducks, 1964

### **Trans Air Limited**

Animal Donation, Birds, 1964

### **Federal Electric Corp. and Govt. of Canada**

Animal Donation, Polar Bear, 1965

### **Zurich Zoo, Switzerland**

Animal Donation, Raccoonlike Dogs, 1965

### **Mr. O.A. Olson, Nigeria**

Animal Donation, Grey Parrot, 1966

### **Anonymous Donor**

Accommodation, for Wolverines, 1966

### **Odeon-Morton Theatres**

Animal Donation, Lion cub, 1966

### **Mrs. Peter Curry, Winnipeg**

Animal Donation, to be announced, 1966

### **Wiley Ford Mercury Sales**

Animal and Cage Donation, Cougars, 1966

### **Eaton's of Canada**

Animal Donation, to be announced, 1966

## President's Message

I believe that the reaction we have had from people in regards to the new format of Zoolog, which was started last issue, has been good. A number of people have spoken to me about this change and expressed the hope that we continue to improve the magazine.

The thought has been expressed to me that Zoolog should be expanded — that there is a real need in this community for a single publication which will be all-embracing in terms of natural science and human history. Another correspondent was very specific and suggested that we should concern ourselves not only with the animals in the zoo but also with plant life and ecological community in Manitoba. I couldn't be more enthusiastic about this kind of response.

A number of societies now exist in Manitoba concerned with a wide variety of things. To my way of thinking there is no reason why Zoolog should not contain articles pertaining to animal and plant life as found in the wild state, our rocks and minerals, the skies which put on a display for us on a clear night, the human communities as existed in Manitoba many years ago, and even the more recent history of Manitoba. All these things are related and, I think, of very genuine interest to the people in this our Province.

To start the ball rolling, I would like to invite readers to contribute articles to Zoolog on all the subjects mentioned above. We are not in a position right now to pay for such articles and, of course, we must leave with our editor the decision as to whether such contributed articles can be worked into the publication.

I would also like to suggest that in order to broaden out the distribution of Zoolog, should readers have the names of friends who would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive a sample copy or two, we would be most happy to accommodate in this respect.

George Heffelfinger

---

## Do you want to receive Zoolog regularly?

## Join the Zoological Society

\$5.00 Regular Membership

\$25.00 Contributing Membership

Send your name and address to F. C. Vodrey, Sec. Tres.

106 Sherburn, Winnipeg 10